

Appl. No. 10/676,427
Reply to Office Action dated December 16, 2005

Docket No. 1232-5168

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application in view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claim Status

Claims 1-30 are pending, with claims 3, 15, 16 and 18-30 having been withdrawn from consideration. By this paper, claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 8-14 and 17 are amended and add new claim 31 is added. No new matter has been introduced.

Claim Rejections under 35 USC §§ 102 and 103

Claims 1-2, 4, 8-14 & 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Wen (USP 6,193,361). Claims 5-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being obvious over Wen in view of Ogino et al. (USP 6,848,781)("Ogino").

Applicant respectfully disagrees with the characterization of the cited references and of the claims in the above rejections and believes that the claims as pending are patentably distinct from the art of record. Applicant respectfully traverses the stated rejections.

As recognized by the Examiner, Ogino, which is used in the rejection of claims 5-7, is commonly assigned to the Assignee hereof- Canon Kabushiki Kaisha. The instant application and Ogino were both, at the time the invention of this application was made, owned by Canon Kabushiki Kaisha. Accordingly, under 35 USC §103(c), Ogino, although otherwise qualifying as prior art under 35 USC §102(e), is disqualified pursuant to 35 USC §103(c) and is thus not available as prior art against this application in a rejection under 35 USC §103(a). Applicants respectfully request that this rejection based on Ogino be withdrawn.

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Applicants have herein amended independent claim 1 to clarify the claimed invention. The invention as recited in the claims presented herein is believed to be patentably distinct over the art of record in this case for at least the following reasons.

A feature of the present invention is changing a degree of gloss by changing at least one of an applying time difference between the liquid applied to adjacent locations in the area of the printing medium, a number of times of scan for applying the liquid, and a mask pattern used for applying the liquid.

In contrast, Wen discloses changing the degree of gloss by changing an amount of polymer applied to a pixel. Wen does not teach or suggest at least the above feature of the present invention as claimed.

Also, new independent claim 31, an apparatus claim which recites features similar to those of method claim 1, has been added and is believed allowable for at least similar reasons as set forth for independent claim 1.

Applicants have not independently addressed the rejections of the dependent claims because Applicant submits that, as independent claim 1 from which the dependent claims depend is allowable for at least those reasons discussed supra, the dependent claims are allowable for at least similar reasons. Applicants however, reserve the right to address such rejections should such be necessary and/or appropriate.

Accordingly, for at least the foregoing stated reasons, independent claims 1 and 31 and the claims dependent therefrom, are believed to be neither anticipated by nor rendered obvious in view of, and thus patentably distinct over, Wen, taken alone or in combination with other art of record. Applicants respectfully request that the rejections based on Wen be withdrawn.

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CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that all claims as presented herein are allowable over the art of record for at least the stated reasons and that the application is hereby placed in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested.

While no fees or extension of time are believed necessary for this Amendment, should an extension of time be required for the timely submission of this paper, such extension is hereby petitioned, and the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for this paper, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 1232-5168.

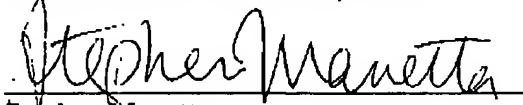
In the event that a telephone conference would facilitate prosecution, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the number provided.

An early and favorable examination on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
MORGAN & FINNEGAN, L.L.P.

Dated: March 16, 2006

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